

difficult to estimate their true value, because after a pause the other factors have not remained unchanged.

What follows is a brief discussion of the methods of obtaining a normal curve and curves of practice, habit, excitation, will and fatigue.

3. *Homicide by a Paralytic*.—The author describes a case of attempted homicide by a parietic, and cites several cases from the literature. He concludes that dangerous tendencies are not rare, and argues for more careful surveillance of this class of patients. W. A. WHITE.

Review of Neurology and Psychiatry

(Vol. 3, 1905, No. 2, February.)

1. The Endocellular Fibrillary Reticulum and its relation with the Fibrils of the Axis-cylinder. A. DONAGGIO.
2. Some Aspects of Alcoholism (Continued). A. HILL BUCHAN.
3. A Micro-chemical Examination of the Phosphorous in Blood-Clots. JOHN TURNER.

1. *The Endocellular Fibrillary Reticulum*.—The author believes it is quite evident that the fibrils of the axis-cylinder take their origin from the endo-cellular reticulum. The seat of origin varies in different cells, but is always demonstrable under his special methods of staining, which he describes in detail in his paper. His researches prove the existence of two types of cells: The first is characterized by cells provided only with an endo-cellular fibrillary reticulum, which is in relation with the fibrils of the protoplasmic processes; the second is more complex and includes the great majority of the nerve-cells. These possess two fibrillary systems, (a) fibrils forming the endo-cellular reticulum; (b) fibrils passing through the cell, but preserve their individuality. Donaggio states that if we admit that the fibrils possess the function of conducting nerve-currents, it is fair to infer that the endo-cellular fibrillary reticulum is an apparatus of reception and of synthesis of the stimuli transmitted to it by the cellulipetal paths.

2. *Some Aspects of Alcoholism (Continued)*.—Continuing his statistical study of the cases of alcoholism which he began in the January number, 1905, Buchan states that out of the total number of 418, 62 had definite symptoms of neuritis. The average age of the cases of neuritis for both sexes was 40 years. As regards subjective sensations under the nervous system, numbness was found more frequently than pain. Sensibility to tactile impressions entered as normal in 19 cases, delayed in 3, and impaired in 9 cases of the 418. Hyperesthesia to deep pressure on muscle and nerves played rather a prominent rôle, and was found in all 62 cases. The tremor movements rendered investigation as to the occurrence of ataxia difficult. The knee-jerks he found increased in a large number of cases. There was a preponderance of affection of the lower over the upper extremities, and of paralysis of the extensors over the flexors, and also of the posterior over the anterior aspects of the limbs. The most frequent departure from the normal was the disturbance in regard to pain in the lower extremities, this being almost always in the form of muscular hyperesthesia. And the almost invariable seat of pain was in the calves. As to mental symptoms, his observations did not materially differ from the usual picture of Korsakoff's psychosis. Of the 62 cases 31 recovered, 13 improved, 7 were sent to an asylum, 3 transferred to a general ward and 8 died.

3. *A Micro-Chemical Examination of the Phosphorus in Blood-Clots*.—Turner has made a series of experiments on blood-clots, trying to discriminate between the clotting which is the result of vital action and that which occurs on the application of the alcoholic fixative used in preparing the tissues for sections, or after the death of the cells. By

means of Macallum's phenyl-hydrazin hydrochloride test the phosphorus-containing material in the coagulum is stained green. On examination of the ante-mortem clots the coagulation consists of a nucleo-proteid substance which stains green. In the post-mortem clot and that which occurs on the application of alcohol to the tissues the coagulum consists of a substance absolutely devoid of phosphorus, and therefore not nucleo-proteid, but which would seem to be the result of distintegration of the red corpuscles. "When it becomes a question as to the significance of the nucleo-proteid clots," the author concludes, "we still have no tests to allow us to differentiate between the coagulation in a moribund or recently dead subject, which may have no pathological significance, and that which may occur during active life, where it would have a very decided pathological significance.

GLASCOCK (Washington).

Allgemeine Zeitschrift fuer Psychiatrie

(Vol. 62, 1904, Nos. 1 and 2.)

1. Chronic Paranoiacs in their Legal Relations, Civil and Criminal. L. W. WEBER.
2. Brain Weight and Insanity. RICHARD MITTENZWEIG.
3. On Color Hallucinations. GEORG LOMER.
4. What Arrangements in the Asylum do our Present Therapeutic Methods Require? WURTH.
5. Dementia Precox or Brain Tumor? OTTO KAISER.
6. Mental Condition of Deaf Mutes. H. KORNGELD.
7. Persons Ordered Committed to German Asylums for Examination as to their Sanity.
8. Simulation of Mental Diseases. ERNST BISCHOFF.
9. Simulation of Attacks of Pain in Morphine Habitué. NERLICH.
10. Endogenous Symptom-Complexes in Exogenous Disease Forms. FAUSER.

1. *Chronic Paranoiacs in their Legal Relations.*—Descriptions of the cases of two chronic paranoiacs, the one having a history extending over 25 years, the other over 20 years. The one, besides excellent ability in his proper trade, that of a mechanic engaged in sewing machine construction and repair, was able to earn considerable money as a system of irregular medical practice evolved by himself. From time to time he had periods of disturbance with hallucinations and illusions, which led him into making false accusations and entering into litigation which resulted in landing him in an asylum, from which he later was either discharged or escaped. Except for the influence of his peculiar ideas, his judgment remained good and he showed no serious mental failure. The second case is that of a man springing from a peasant family having strong religious opinions, who entered upon theological studies, but being dismissed from the seminary on account of insubordination and repeated disagreements with his superiors, launched out as an independent preacher, and, going about clad in sackcloth, disturbed the meetings of the regular congregations, whom he denounced without cessation. As he was continually in conflict, he was committed to an asylum, where he remained three years. After a short period of liberty he was committed to another asylum, from which after another three years' sojourn he escaped. He then wandered about for two years preaching, and gained many adherents, who supported him and gave him considerable sums of money, nearly all of which he spent in having his own peculiar polemics printed. He again became involved in conflicts with the church authorities, and was again committed. In spite of his peculiarities he possessed real ability in composing and preaching sermons, and had a remarkably retentive memory. Even after 20 years he shows no real mental failure, and has apparently